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other material has made Albert Gallatin so living a figure. One realizes how completely he was of the governing class of Europe. Descendant of Jacques Coeur, cousin of Madame de Staël, cousin of Cavour, youthful intimate of Voltaire, he was of a long-enduring stock, of a family which commanded universal entrée. His personality placed him with the elect of this class. The czar, the Duke of Wellington, and Napoleon all gave him signal attention; he could have domesticated himself among the inner circle in any country of Europe. Why did he return to America, where he rightly judged that his career was ended, that worse conditions would ensue before better ones could evolve? Foremost among the reasons was a great and simple love of republican institutions, which shines through all his speech and action. Equally strong, if not more fundamental, was that spirit of loyalty to a task undertaken, to a country voluntarily adopted, inbred in the Swiss, and which had caused Gallatins for centuries to give true service to most of the countries of Europe: the spirit which the Lion of Lucerne commemorates.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

The Winning of the Far West: a History of the Regaining of Texas, of the Mexican War, and the Oregon Question; and of the Successive Additions to the Territory of the United States, within the Continent of America, 1829-1867. By ROBERT McNUTT McELROY, Ph.D., Edwards Professor of American History, Princeton University. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1914. Pp. x, 384.)

THIS is a somewhat pretentious book: "It is based", the preface informs us, "upon authoritative, and in part unpublished, sources, and was written at the instance of the publishers, to constitute a continuation of Colonel Roosevelt's *Winning of the West*". To the author it presents a "theme of epic character", and he tells us that the "volume will have failed of its mission if it does not show that the winning of the Far West is an achievement in which every citizen of the Republic may feel an honest pride". Such a purpose and spirit raise an expectation of a literary treatment based upon a fresh handling of materials, together with a doubt concerning the honest pride. One feels at the outset that it may be an epic wherein the gods have staged a play known variously as Manifest Destiny, Benevolent Assimilation, or even as Mommsen's Law. On the last page of the book the doubt is abundantly confirmed. The author closes with the following words: "In looking backward over the process, we cannot fail to see manifest destiny in almost every page . . . it has been a past of which no American need feel ashamed." It is true that so many works treating of this era have been written from this point of view that it was once the traditional method of treating the subject. It is something of a shock, however, to discover, after so many have labored to establish a different

basis, that it should still serve for a serious historical undertaking. Nevertheless its presence reveals more than a page of detailed criticism would do. The author himself gives unconscious comment upon it, for in a foot-note directly below this *envoi* appears an abstract of Andrew Johnson's memorandum concerning the alleged distribution of part of the proceeds of the Alaska Purchase. The egregious Anthony Butler's activities, and Jackson's relations to them, the strange diplomatic perversities of Scott and Trist, the cold-blooded aggression of Polk, and the amazing mission of Gadsden (a story not yet told), of all these we are not exactly proud even if we accept a theory of history-writing in which an appeal to pride is of much importance. Much of this nationalistic expansion, whatever the motives behind it, or the means used to carry it out, was in style frequently called "dashing" or "adventurous", even arrogant, boisterous, and noisy. All of this does not make accurate historical writing easy, but it helps to tell a story. The writer of this volume delights in episodes in which appear old favorites. Jackson, "the battered old (*var.*, "grizzled") war-horse", Sam Houston and Deaf Smith, "his trusty scout", give a *dramatis personae* of the opening act, the Independence of Texas, wherein we are not disappointed to hear that "the bloody avenger has arrived", and herein also, quite properly, out dashes "the horseman flecked with foam from his panting charger". All this, fitted with apocryphal speeches by Houston and English expletives from Santa Anna, serves to revive boyhood memories of Captain Mayne Reid. Fortunately this tone could hardly last throughout the volume, and the manner and style cool greatly in the following chapter, wherein a letter from Lewis to Houston is printed with the meticulousness of the *Documentary History of the Constitution*, unnecessarily carefully, it would seem, considering its intrinsic importance. After such extremes of style a better balance is preserved, and the writer's account of the Mexican War is graphic and readable. Even here, however, one finds some statements which need revision. It is something of an exaggeration to say (p. 151) that the "Rio Grande was filled with the corpses of those who had ventured their lives in one mad effort to stem its turbid current" after Resaca de la Palma.

The bulk of the volume is connected with the events from 1836 to 1848; to the Gadsden Purchase are allotted but two pages and nothing is said about Buchanan's attempts at intervention in Mexico. The concluding chapter is a brief but comprehensive account of the Alaska Purchase. The materials used are wholly American, and nearly all are in print, with the exception of the Ford collection of Jackson letters, of which it is incorrect to say (p. 2) that they "have escaped the notice of historical investigators". Some of the citations are surprising. Why, for example, refer to the *Charleston Mercury* for Poinsett's instructions (p. 8), when they are in the *American State Papers*, or to Chase's *History of the Polk Administration* for the Oregon Notice Resolution (p. 127)? More serious are misstatements of fact or inference. Mon-

roe did not know that more territory could have been obtained in 1819 (p. 4), nor is it correct to say (p. 4) that "Texas was surrendered to obtain Florida", perhaps the author's favorite idea, expressed in the subtitle and insisted upon in the text; Tyler's plan was not "to gain Texas and California by bartering Oregon (p. 118)", and France never claimed Oregon (p. 87), nor does Greenhow, cited as authority, say so. Ashburton's attitude toward Oregon would have been made clearer by reference to his instructions, which are in print. Pakenham's proposal to Calhoun of August 26, 1844, while rejected the same day, was but the beginning of a negotiation lasting for months (p. 123). The proposal to arbitrate the Oregon question had been made by Pakenham as early as January, 1845 (p. 125), and Calhoun's position in February, 1846, was not essentially different from that held by him while Secretary of State (p. 126). Ivan the Terrible reigned from 1533, not 1547 (p. 103), the Russo-American treaty of 1824 was not signed by "John Quincy Adams as President" (p. 106) and the Gadsden Purchase was originally much more than 45,000 miles in extent before the Senate reduced it by amendment (p. 347). But to prolong the list would be to imitate the classical exercises with D'Aubigné and Thiers.

All in all, one's judgment must be that the performance fails to measure up to the hopes aroused by the glowing preface. In so far as the history of American expansion has to do with diplomacy it must be written with constant mindfulness of the maxim *audietur et altera pars*. Until the examination of the Mexican and other archives, now so auspiciously begun, has been completed, we must not expect a definitive history of this important, but assuredly no longer neglected, period. Certainly Mr. McElroy has not brought us nearer the desired goal.

JESSE S. REEVES.

Samuel F. B. Morse: his Letters and Journals. Edited and supplemented by his Son, EDWARD LIND MORSE. Illustrated with Reproductions of his Paintings and with Notes and Diagrams bearing on the Invention of the Telegram. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1914. Pp. xxi, 440; xvi, 548.)

THIS book is in reality a life of Morse, written by his son, Edward Lind Morse. The story is told in great part through extracts from letters and selections from journals, but narrative, at first merely supplementary and explanatory, becomes more frequent and important as the work progresses, and in the later periods when Morse had become a figure of international importance, it is the dominant feature.

The career of Morse is of two quite distinct and very different parts. In volume I. we have the beginnings—in middle life—of a painter; in the second volume the beginnings—in middle life—the struggles, and the final triumph of an inventor. In the earlier letters there is much